

# Project Proposal

**Proposal Title:** Ray Mesa (II) Herbivore Exclsure

**Proposal Number:** 1412

**DWR Region:** Southeastern Region

**Lead Agency:** Other

**County:** San Juan

**Project Manager:** Nichole Barger

**PM Phone:** 4356133717

**Regional Priority:** Within Focus Area

**Project Type:** Miscellaneous

**Proposed Start Date:** 08/01/2009

**Project Location:** The treatment is approximately seven miles east of the town of La Sal, Utah. The exclosure is discretionary within the Ray Mesa II project area.

**Project Description:** A large 2.5-acre four compartments exclosure would be erected in a pinyon-juniper ecological site on Ray Mesa after the site is bullhogged by the BLM.

**Description of Problem/Need:** Post-treatment herbivory by elk, deer, rabbits, and domestic livestock may affect the long-term success of expensive management treatments designed to increase the diversity and production of understory herbaceous communities in pinyon-juniper ecological sites. Without well-designed efforts to understand the role of herbivory as a factor affecting post-treatment vegetation responses, managers seriously risk their ability to learn from planned treatment activities and apply this knowledge in an adaptive-management context to reduce costs and increase success rates in future projects.

**Objectives:** Construct an exclosure to allow researchers, managers, and the public to understand the potential roles of herbivory and herbivore management as factors influencing the long-term success of expensive vegetation treatments.

**Relevance to Strategic Plans:** The WAP focus areas are the same as the UPCD focus areas. Ray Mesa falls within one of the WAP focus areas of SE Utah. Construction of this exclosure will support currently funded management-oriented research by the University of Colorado and the U.S. Geological Survey (USDA funding program). Existence of this exclosure also has the potential for supporting further research conducted in association with the Canyonlands Research Center, whose mission is to conduct and facilitate research focusing on the effects of land use and climate on the health of dryland ecosystems.

**Potential Risks:** Exclosure construction must follow immediately after treatment. Any delay in the construction of the exclosure would give herbivores and opportunity to forage in the site and impact the results of the long-term monitoring program.

**Proposed Methods:** We will work with the UPCD to design and locate the exclosure within the Ray Mesa (II) Project Area. Since UPCD has the knowledge and expertise to contract this work, UPCD will use our designs to identify a suitable contractor.

**Shapefile Name:** HPD 2010\GIS Shape Files - Proposals\SER\1412.shp

**Seed Source:**

**UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:** 01/20/2009

**Proposed  
NEPA Action:**

**Proposed  
Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

**Monitoring Information:** If USDA research funds are awarded to University of Colorado, we plan to conduct the first round of sampling after treatments have been conducted and the exclosure constructed. We request that subsequent monitoring efforts be conducted by UDWR in conjunction with their existing range monitoring program.

**Grazing Management:** The Ray Mesa II project is part of the Lisbon allotment within the Moab Field Office. The allotment is rather large in size and the portions affected by the proposed treatment would be put into a rest period for a period of at least two years following the application of seed or until management goals have been met.

## SPECIES BENEFITING

## LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
BLM	2

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Total	2
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## PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
DNR Watershed (FY10)	\$30,000.00		\$0.00
Totals	<i>\$30,000.00</i>		<i>\$0.00</i>

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	In Kind/ Partner Contrib.
Contractual Services		\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies		\$15,000.00	\$0.00
	Totals	<i>\$30,000.00</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>

**Project Map:**